

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, in the County Administration Building, 1800 27th Street, Building B, Room B1-501, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were: Chairman **Richard Gillmor** and **Eugene Wolff**, Council Members, City of Sebastian; **Bob Solari**, and **Peter O'Bryan** (arrived at 11:06 a.m.), Commissioners, IRC; **Craig Fletcher** and **Tracy Carroll**, Councilmembers, City of Vero Beach, **Susan Adams**, Mayor, City of Fellsmere; **Richard Jefferson**, Town Manager, and **Frannie Atchison**, Councilmember, Town of Indian River Shores; **Richard Dunlop**, Councilmember, Non-voting member, Town of Orchid; and **Andrew Riddle**, FDOT District 4 Representative.

Absent were: **Gary Wheeler**, **Wesley Davis**, and **Joe Flescher**, Commissioners, IRC; **Brian Heady**, Councilmember, City of Vero Beach; and **Jeff Pegler**, IRC School Board (all excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Phil Matson, IRC MPO Director; Chris Mora, Public Works Director; Bob Keating, Community Development Director; Andy Sobczak, IRC Senior Planner and Metropolitan Planning Organization Staff Planner; Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner; Sharon Schalm, Staff Assistant III, MPO; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3.

Others present: Fernando Morales, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT); Claudia DeVitt, Transfield Services; Frank Watanabe, Neel-Shutter; Steve Fennell and Jessica Dean, HDR; Lisa Frazier, Kimley-Horn & Associates; Henry Stephens, Scripps News/Press Journal; Roger Wheelwright, John Burns, Vince DeTurris, William Schumacher, John Chamberlain, Steven Sloan, Edward Bennett and Carol Bennett, Interested Citizens.

Call to Order

Chairman Gillmor called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gillmor announced not everyone was present yet and he would entertain a motion to move the election of officers until later in the meeting.

**ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED
BY Councilmember Fletcher, the members voted
unanimously (7-0) to approve the change in agenda.**

Approval of Minutes – *Action Required*

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Atchison, SECONDED BY Mayor Adams, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the December 8, 2010 Metropolitan Planning Organization minutes as presented.

Status Report of MPO Advisory Committees – *No Action Required*

Mr. Phil Matson, IRC MPO Director, reviewed his memorandum dated February 2, 2011, which is on file in the Commission Office.

Review of General Planning Consultant Proposed Scope of Services – *Action Required*

Mr. Matson summarized in May, 2007, the MPO authorized staff to hire a Highways General Planning Consultant and a Transit/Intermodal General Planning Consultant to undertake various Unified Planning Work Program Planning tasks that require consultant services. After advertising for and selecting two consultants, the MPO entered into agreements with those consultants to provide General Planning Consultants (GPC's) services. Those agreements will expire in May of this year. Therefore, the Indian River County MPO proposes to advertise for new GPC's to undertake future transportation studies. He reviewed the draft Scope of Services included in the agenda packet and asked the MPO to identify any necessary changes, and authorize staff to initiate the consultant selection process for a Highways GPC and a Transit/Intermodal GPC.

Mr. Matson explained he had added a few items to the Scope of Services for the General Planning Consultant as follows:

- Under heading II. Highway and Systems Planning General Planning Consultant Services, Subsection A, Public Involvement Activities:
 - 7. Visualization and Graphics, including Computer Simulation development**
- Under heading II. Highway and Systems Planning General Planning Consultant Services, Subsection E, Short & Long Range Transportation Planning/Corridor Analyses and Sub-area Analyses:
 - 7. Regional Long Range Planning studies**

- Under heading II. Highway and Systems Planning General Planning Consultant Services, Subsection F, Transportation Planning Model Calibration and Sub-Area Modeling:
 - 7. Air-quality modeling and analysis**

- Under heading III. Transit, Intermodal and Special Studies General Planning Consultant Services, Subsection B, Special Project Planning Studies:
 - 8. Post-Census or New Highway Authorization Bill
MPO Administrative and Compliance Studies**

- Under heading III. Transit, Intermodal and Special Studies General Planning Consultant Services:

Subsection C. Multi-Modal and Mobility Planning Studies – The Consultant may be required to undertake Multi-Modal Quality and Level of Service (MMQLOS) Analysis, Mobility Zone identification and Mobility plan development, and Traffic Systems and Management Operational (TSMO) data collection and studies.

 - 1. MMQLOS Analysis**
 - 2. Mobility Zone plan development**
 - 3. TSMO data collection**
 - 4. Other mobility studies, as identified by the MPO**

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED BY Councilmember Fletcher, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the consultant selection process for a Highways General Planning Consultants and a Transit/Intermodal General Planning Consultant as presented in the Scope of Services.

Request for Authorization to Enter into a Safe Routes to School Program Agreement between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Indian River County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Action Required

Mr. Matson reported recently, FDOT provided the MPO with a bicycle travel trailer and 32 children’s bicycles as part of a districtwide Safe Routes to School (SRTS) non-infrastructure safety project. The trailer was available for use

by the MPO, the School District, and other local agencies and organizations for bicycle safety education purposes.

He summarized the SRTS program was a national program designed to encourage children to walk to school and basically address child bike/pedestrian safety issues. It was a federally funded grant program along with private donations and foundation money. One of the projects done in our district was to put together a safety trailer to be used at public events and in conjunction with the local police departments and school board. Recently the MPO had gone out to do some public safety outreach efforts for children.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED BY Mayor Adams, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the Metropolitan Planning Organization entering into a Safe Routes to School Program Agreement for ownership and use of the trailer.

Presentation of the Senior Resource Association (SRA) Regarding Transit Service in Indian River County – No Action Required

Mr. Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner, on behalf of the Senior Resource Association, gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

- Systemwide Restructuring complete
- More routes, more destinations:
 - Sebastian City Hall
 - SR 60 west/Outlet Mall
 - IRSC Main Campus (Ft. Pierce)
- Statewide Awards
 - Marketing, Planning, Volunteers
- First Shelters Installed
 - Longstanding Top Priority
 - First Location: Parc24, Indian River Boulevard
 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: January 6, 2010
- Design of New Transit Administration/Maintenance Facility Complete – Construction 2011
- 100% Federal Grant Funding (approximately \$2 million)
- 5,000 square foot Administration Facility with Maintenance Bays
- Located Adjacent to Supervisor of Elections Office on 43rd Avenue on County-Owned Property

- Designed to Withstand Hurricane-Force Winds
 - Critical due to role of Transit during Emergencies
- Secured Bus Parking – complies with Homeland Security guidelines
- First Florida Green Building Certification building in the County
- Site Planning/Engineering by local firm, Schulke, Biddle & Stoddard; Architectural Subcontract to Registered Minority Business Enterprise firm
- Strong Systemwide Ridership Increases
 - 2008/09 – 589,891 fixed route trips
 - 2009/10 - 708,941 fixed route trips
 - 2010/11 – 900,000 fixed route trips (projected)

Overview of Transit in Indian River County:

- Significant part of the overall transportation picture
 - Projected 900,000 fixed route riders 2010/11 – Record
 - Over 75,000 demand response riders
- Low Cost Service
 - (\$16/paratransit trip in IRC vs \$19 statewide)
 - (2.04/bus trip in IRC vs \$4.49 peer group average)
 - Partially Funded through Federal/State Grants
 - Require a Local Match
- Provides Congestion Relief
 - Projected 900,000 fixed route riders
 - Most, if not all, would drive or carpool without bus
 - Carries 1-2% of all traffic on portions of major corridors (US 1, SR 60)
 - Carries even higher % on selected corridors (49th Street, 14th Avenue)

Who Rides Transit in Indian River County?

- Potential Riders Population
 - Category 1 = 64,865 (48% of total population)
 - Population above 60, 59 and younger disabled population, non-disabled low-income
 - Category 2 – 35,596 (26% of total population)
 - Disabled population and non-disabled low-income population
- Potential Riders Population Forecasts
 - By 2020 – 84,155 (Category 1)
 - By 2030 – 100,069 (Category 2)

GoLine On-Board Survey:

- 40.6% Males ; 59.4% Females Ridership
- Household Incomes:

- Less than \$10,000 - 57.2%
- \$10,000 to \$19,999 – 17.7%
- \$20,000 to \$29,000 – 15.8%
- \$30,000 or over – 9.3%
- Destinations:
 - Home – 22.0%
 - Work – 17.3%
 - School – 3.4%
 - College – 2.7%
 - Doctor/Dentist - 12.9%
 - Shopping/Errands – 20.7%
 - Visiting/Recreation – 6.4%
 - Other – 14.6%
- Age of Ridership:
 - 19 or under – 16.2%
 - 20 to 29 – 23.1%
 - 30 to 39 – 12.8%
 - 40 to 49 – 19.0%
 - 50 to 59 – 14.8%
 - 60 to 64 – 6.2%
 - 65 or older – 7.9%

2010 Transit Activity:

- System Restructuring Complete Last Year

Overall Framework Guiding Service Planning Process:

- Identify needs for transit service and outline specific improvements
- Prioritize improvements and organize over a ten year period programmed each year
- Support the development of the capital and operating plan
- Strategic or opportunistic improvements

Deficiencies Identified:

- Two transfers required from North County to Vero, Indian River Memorial Hospital, Indian River Mall
- No service to Sebastian City Hall, Vero Beach Outlet Mall, West 60 Corridor, Indian River State College Main Campus
- No service on South Indian River Blvd.
- No beachside service north of Sexton Plaza
- No shelters or transit infrastructure

Major System Route Changes:

- New route on Indian River Blvd South
- Break Sebastian route into 2 routes
- Special stop added to Village Beach Market
- Old Dixie Highway/Oslo Road Service
- Other minor route changes

2011 Upcoming Activities:

- Proposed Vero Beach Hub Relocation
 - Currently identifying permanent hub site
 - Geographic constraints on hub location
 - Minimize neighborhood impact
 - Maximize intermodal opportunities
 - Sites under consideration:
 - County Administration Building South Lot
 - Twin Pairs Parking Lot (near Jetson's Appliance) (#1 Choice)
 - Vero Beach Municipal Airport

2011 Proposed Activity:

- Fuel and Operating Expenses Continue to Rise
- Service Expansion Possible with Resumption of FDOT Discretionary Grant Funding
 - 25% Local Match Required on New Service
- Completion of Shelter Program
 - 20 New Shelters Total
- Outstanding Issues on Remaining Shelters:
 - County: Kurtell Building, 6th Avenue
 - Agreement for Trash Removal at Receptacles
 - Cities: Licensing Agreement, Hold Harmless Agreement, Agreement for Trash Removal at Receptacles
- Continue to Seek Successful Local Partnerships

Discussion of 2010 Census Issues and New Urbanized Area Designation – No Action Required

Mr. Matson summarized the United States Census Bureau conducted the official 2010 Census of Population and Housing last year. The results of the census will have major policy implications throughout the country, since the Census was the basis for determining many federal funding program allocations as well as Congressional apportionment. The 2010 Census results could also have substantial impacts for transportation programs in Indian River County;

mainly in MPO reapportionment and potential MPO consolidation; federal transit operating subsidies; and federal highway funding.

He continued with respect to MPO reapportionment and potential MPO consolidation, MPO's were required to develop an apportionment plan after each decennial Census. The purpose of the plan was to ensure that the board composition of the MPO reflected the population changes that had occurred in the county over the past decade. While it was likely that the IRC MPO's board structure and planning area would remain similar to the current structure after the results of the census were tabulated, there was a possibility that IRC would be joined with Martin, St. Lucie, and/or Brevard Counties into a larger Census Urbanized Area (UZA). While current laws allow for multiple MPO's within a single urbanized area, if the respective MPO's in that urbanized area so chose, the Governor had indicated his interest in creating a statewide policy of having a single MPO for each urbanized area. This, in turn, would result in a regional MPO representing multiple counties and jurisdictions, similar to the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

If IRC were to join with a larger urbanized area, another potential concern was the loss of transit operating funds, which were currently limited to urbanized areas of 200,000 or fewer persons. One exception currently existed in federal law. That exception allows urbanized areas that exceed the 200,000 population threshold as a result of the decennial census to continue to use a percentage of their federal funding for operating purposes for several additional years after the census.

Finally, the addition of Indian River County into a larger urbanized area would qualify the county for new funding sources, such as federal Urban Attributable funding for areas above 200,000 funds. Those funds, however, were allocated to the urbanized area as a whole, and the division of those funds would have to be negotiated with the other counties in the urbanized area. State officials recently indicated that the results of the new urbanized area boundaries will be announced by the Census Bureau in the spring of 2012.

Discussion of Proposed Sidewalk on State Road A1A, Coquina Lane – St. Edwards Drive – No Action Required

Commissioner O'Bryan arrived at 11:06 a.m.

Mr. Matson summarized this was an item that was presented to the MPO previously regarding the potential for putting a sidewalk on State Road A1A by FDOT as part of a resurfacing project. He noted there were several reasons for putting in a sidewalk in this area but there had also been some public opposition.

Commissioner Solari reported when this matter previously came before the MPO he was in support of it, but had recently spent time at a South Beach Property Owners Association meeting which encompasses the proposed area for the sidewalk. He continued there were 30 to 40 negative comments received at this meeting with only one favorable comment. It was clear the vast majority of the citizens did not favor the sidewalk and he wondered if those resources could be better used elsewhere.

Councilmember Atchison related she lived in Indian River Shores and since this issue had come up she had not observed enough pedestrian traffic to warrant another sidewalk and would not support spending the money at this time when residents do not want it.

Council Member Wolff inquired if a policy issue would exist if citizens opposed sidewalks in other areas of the county. Commissioner Solari replied it may be a policy issue; but pointed out with so many residents in opposition and there may be areas in the county that needed sidewalks, while this one did not, then a policy change may be considered.

Mr. Roger Wheelwright expressed concern with potential drainage issues if the sidewalk were to be put in.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Solari, SECONDED BY Councilmember Atchison, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to send a letter to the Florida Department of Transportation, and any other follow-up steps necessary, to turn down the sidewalk for the portion of State Road A1A from Coquina Lane to St. Edwards Drive and request the money be spent on another location within Indian River County where a sidewalk was more needed.

Mr. Fernando Morales, Florida Department of Transportation, explained how new requirements for roads included sidewalks as it was easier to do it all at one time than to come back years later and to add a sidewalk.

Commissioner Solari asked if sending a letter to FDOT turning down the sidewalk was sufficient or if there were other avenues to be taken. Mr. Morales responded going through the MPO to write a letter to FDOT would be going through the proper channels.

Mr. John Burns, President of the South Beach Property Owners Association, also expressed support of Commissioner Solari's motion.

Commissioner O'Bryan distributed a summary of police reports covering the last five years for any accidents occurring in the area of the proposed sidewalk. There were seven accidents; however, three of those occurred in the Town of Indian River Shores on State Road A1A, which is out of the project area. He summarized in every one of those cases, whether the sidewalk was there or not, there would have been no impact on the accident.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

ON MOTION BY Council Member Gillmor, SECONDED BY Commissioner O'Bryan, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to elect Commissioner Solari as the Chairman of the Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2011.

Councilmember Atchison nominated Commissioner O'Bryan as Vice Chairman of the Metropolitan Planning Organization for 2011. There were no other nominations and the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve Commissioner O'Bryan as Vice Chairman.

Other Business:

Mr. Matson announced he had information for new members concerning the MPO Institute if anyone was interested.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Adjournment

Chairman Solari adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.